

KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

17TH JUNE, 2021

NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

- **The impending cooling demand transition in India offers a potential advantage. Because a majority of investments in cooling technologies, infrastructure, and behaviours are yet to be made, there is a unique opportunity to lock in energy efficient consumption patterns. Encouraging the use of passive cooling alternatives including energy efficient building designs can help reduced dependence on energy intensive cooling technologies.**
- **Modern science is not antithetical to Indian thought. The spirit of enquiry, embracing new ideas and evolution through acquiring new knowledge is at the core of our being from the Upanishadic times. Without losing time, Government must steer the nation back on to the path of science.**
- **FDI inflows recently have not been in sync with the government's priorities for the postCOVID19 economic recovery: the Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, anchored on the revival of the manufacturing sector through the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. When this is the situation, 'record' levels of FDI inflows during 2020-21 cannot be a cause for celebration.**
- **The Union Cabinet has approved the long pending deep ocean mission, which among other things involves developing a submersible vehicle that will allow a crew to plunge 6,000 metres into the ocean and hunt the floor for precious metals. If this works, India will be among a handful of countries able to launch an underwater mission at such depths.**
- **Drones could soon be used for delivering COVID19 vaccines in remote and hard to reach geographies in the country.**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal to hike subsidy rates for phosphorus and potassium based fertilizers by 140% in a bid to provide relief to farmers as the kharif sowing season begins.**

42nd SESSION OF FAO CONFERENCE

1. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare addressed the 42nd session of Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Conference. It determines the policies of the Organization, approves the budget, and makes recommendations to Members on food and agriculture issues.
2. **India's Efforts for Food Security during the Covid-19 Pandemic: High Production of Foodgrains: India registered an all-time high production of foodgrains at 305 million tonnes as well as in exports during 2020-21. Kisan Rail. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package. PM Kisan Scheme.**
3. **Climate Change and Agricultural Schemes: Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). Green India Mission. Soil Health Card (SHC). Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY). Rainfed Area Development (RAD). Submission on Agro Forestry (SMAF). National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA). Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER).**

GLOBAL EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR ARSENAL: SIPRI REPORT

1. According to a recent report published in the SIPRI Yearbook 2021, the number of nuclear warheads which are ready and deployed have increased globally.
2. The SIPRI Yearbook is released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) which researches international armament and conflict. **Nine Nuclear Armed States: The nine nuclear armed states are: US, Russia, the U.K., France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea.**
3. Russia and the US together possessed over 90% of global nuclear weapons and have extensive and expensive modernisation programmes under way.
4. **India possessed an estimated 156 nuclear warheads at the start of 2021 compared to 150 at the start of last year, while Pakistan had 165 warheads, up from 160 in 2020.**

POLICY FOR DECLASSIFICATION OF WAR HISTORY

1. The Union Defence Minister has approved a policy on archiving, declassification, compilation and publication of war and operations histories by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
2. **Desirability of Authoritative Record: Timely publication of war histories would give people an accurate account of the events, provide authentic material for academic research and counter the unfounded rumours.**
3. **Declassification of Older Wars: The declassification of older wars like the 1962 war and Operation Bluestar is not automatic and will be taken up on a case by case basis by a committee to be constituted under the new policy.**

REDEFINING BOUNDARIES OF UAPA: DELHI HIGH COURT

1. The Delhi High Court granted bail to student activists in a Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967 case. While delivering the judgement, the court redefined the boundaries of the otherwise "vague" Section 15 of the UAPA.
2. **High Court's Ruling: Extent of Terrorist Activity: Terrorist activity cannot be broadly defined to include ordinary penal offences. By doing so, it raised the bar for the State to book an individual for terrorism under the UAPA.**
3. **Careful while Defining Unlawful Activities: The courts must be careful in employing the definitional words and phrases used in Section 15 of UAPA in their absolute literal sense, they should differentiate clearly how terrorism is different even from conventional, heinous crime.**